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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/817,885	03/26/2001	John Matthew Powers	13DV13562	7616
32999	7590	11/12/2003	EXAMINER	
DAVID E. CRAWFORD, JR. SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL 8000 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			BELLAMY, TAMIKO D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2856	

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/817,885

Applicant(s)

POWERS ET AL.

Examiner

Tamiko D. Bellamy

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6, 7 and 10-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: "A Fixture For Holding A Gas Turbine Engine Blade During A Flow Check".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schumacher et al. (6,561,048).

With respect to claim 1, as depicted in fig. 1, Schumacher et al. discloses a turbine engine blade having an airfoil (22) extending from a shank, and dovetail (24) including a pair of protrusions. As depicted in fig. 4, Schumacher et al. discloses a fixture (e.g., holder 72) holds the turbine engine blade. Schumacher et al, further discloses in fig. 4 that the fixture (e.g., holder 72) includes a support (e.g., apparatus body 52) for receiving a dovetail (24). The device of Schumacher et al. also includes a clamp (e.g., jaws 76, 76) mounted adjacent to the support (e.g., apparatus body).

With respect to claim 2, as depicted in fig. 4, Schumacher et al. discloses the clamp (e.g., jaws 76,78) engages a pair of the pressure faces to hold the dovetail (24) against the support (e.g., apparatus body 52) and the blade in the fixture (e.g., holder 72).

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With respect to claim 8, Schumacher et al. discloses that the clamp (e.g., jaws 76, 78) contains a movable jaw (78) that is equivalent to a rotatably mounted clamp member.

With respect to claim 9, as depicted in fig. 1, Schumacher et al. discloses the clamp member (e.g., jaws 76, 78) contains a curved portion that engages a portion of the pressure face on the dovetail (24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schumacher et al. (6,561,048).

With respect to claims 3 and 4, as depicted in fig. 4, the support (e.g., apparatus 52) engages a base portion of the dovetail (24). Schumacher et al. lacks the detail of opposing surfaces of the support engaging the laterally opposite tips of the protrusions. However, the device of Schumacher et al. engages a portion of the platform (26) that includes the laterally opposite tips of a pair of protrusions. Therefore to employ Schumacher et al. on opposing surface of a support that engage the laterally opposite tips would have been obvious since this reference explicitly teaches the use of a support that engages a platform that includes a laterally apposite tips and a dovetail portion.

With respect to claim 5, as depicted in figs. 1 and 4, Schumacher et al. discloses that the that the blade has two pair of protrusions.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6, 7, and 10-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamiko D. Bellamy whose telephone number is (703) 305-4971. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 7:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Tamiko Bellamy

T.B.,
November 4, 2003

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hezron S. Williams", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800